

What's New in the MPDC

JANUARY 27, 2003

CHIEF RAMSEY UPDATES DC COUNCIL ON HOMICIDE INVESTIGATIONS

During a hearing this past week at Roosevelt High School, Chief Ramsey outlined for members of the DC Council some of the steps the MPDC is taking to reduce homicides and improve homicide investigations. The Chief reported that the homicide clearance rate rose last year, from 50 percent in 2001 to 55 percent in 2002, which is the average for US cities of comparable size. While Ramsey said he is encouraged by the improvement, he told Councilmembers he is far from satisfied and is taking various steps to strengthen the investigative process. These include more rigorous selection and training of detectives in the Violent Crimes Branch (VCB) and enhanced supervision and case management with the addition of two lieutenants in the unit. The Chief also announced that the MPDC has received a funding commitment to hire three civilian victim advocates who will team up with one officer in the VCB to improve outreach and follow-up to the survivors of homicide. Ramsey reported that the MPDC continues to face challenges when it comes to closing homicides, including the reluctance of some witnesses to come forward. He urged community leaders to join with him in encouraging more residents to get involved with the police in community policing in general and homicide investigations specifically. Read the Chief's prepared statement to the Council's Committee on the Judiciary at:

The survivors of homicide victims and other victims of violent crime in DC are reminded that they can get reimbursed for some of their medical and other expenses through DC's Crime Victims Compensation Program. For details on this program, including how to apply, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/victims/victims.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2003/01/012103.shtm

FOLLOWING MAYOR'S CRIME FORUM ON JANUARY 25, RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GET INVOLVED

Building on the theme of "The Community Needs You," participants in the Mayor's Forum on Crime and Prevention will be encouraged to get more deeply involved in community policing in their neighborhoods in the weeks and months ahead. The MPDC's "Policing for Prevention" strategy offers DC residents a number of opportunities to get actively involved in community crime-fighting. These include regular Police Service Area (PSA) meetings, Partnerships for Problem Solving groups, Neighborhood Watch and citizen patrols, Citizens Advisory Committees and other partnerships. In addition, Chief Ramsey is urging more residents to consider joining the MPDC Reserve Corps. Reserve officers work in uniform to assist sworn MPDC officers in a number of administrative, special event and patrol functions. To learn more about getting involved in community policing in DC, please visit the "Policing for Prevention" page at:

The Mayor's Forum on Crime and Prevention is free and open to the public. For more details, call (202) 442-8150 or go to:

[dc.gov/mayor/news/
advisory.asp?id=375&mon=200301](http://dc.gov/mayor/news/advisory.asp?id=375&mon=200301)

mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/involved.shtm

UPCOMING

"Chatting with the Chief." Chief Ramsey takes your phone calls during his monthly radio program on WHUR-96.3 FM, Wednesday, January 29, from 6:40 – 7:00 pm.

RAMSEY PRAISES TWO OFFICERS SHOT DURING APPREHENSION OF ARMED ROBBER IN ADAMS MORGAN

Chief Ramsey is heralding the bravery of two Third District officers who were shot this past week after confronting an armed robber who had just held up a restaurant in the Adams Morgan community. The two plain-clothes officers were working a stakeout of the "Lil Peckers Restaurant," at 1742 Columbia Road, NW, which had already been robbed at gunpoint twice this month. When the suspect exited the restaurant just before midnight on Thursday, January 23, the officers identified themselves and ordered the suspect to halt. Instead, the suspect opened fire on the officers, who were then forced to return fire. One officer was shot in the right arm, and the other was shot in the right thigh. The officers were taken to the hospital, but their injuries are not life-threatening. The suspect, who received a graze wound to the hand, fled on foot, but was arrested a short time later and a large caliber handgun was recovered. The officers involved are 54-year-old Kevin Griffin, who retired from the MPDC but returned as a Senior Police Officer in 1996, and 38-year-old Lance Kashinsky, a 12-year veteran of the force. "This incident is yet another example of how officers put their lives on the line daily to protect our citizens," Ramsey said. Read more about the incident at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

CHIEF ANNOUNCES NEW VISIBILITY MEASURES

To help ensure that more people are aware of the police out patrolling their neighborhoods, Chief Ramsey this week implemented a number of new visibility and customer service measures. One immediate change is that officers in marked squad cars will now activate the side flashing lights on their emergency light bars. Please note that this is not a signal that motorists are being stopped; officers making a traffic stop will continue to activate their full light bars and, where appropriate, their emergency sirens. Other enhanced visibility and customer service measures include more foot and bicycle patrols, officers visiting individual residences in selected neighborhoods to pass out information, the use of customer surveys, and more follow-up by supervisors with individuals who have had recent contacts with the police.

NEW YEAR BRINGS INCREASES IN SOME FEES

With the new year, some of the fees charged by the MPDC have increased. Effective February 1, 2003, the cost for "police clearances" – criminal history background checks for citizens seeking employment – rises from \$5 to \$7; fingerprint checks through the FBI increase to \$35. In addition, the fee charged for copies of incident and offense reports is going from \$2 to \$3 per report. Other fee increases include the following: bike registrations, from \$1 to \$2; boat registrations (propulsion larger than 40 feet), from \$45 to \$60; and firearm user fees/registration, from \$10 to \$13. In addition, registrations and renewals for armed and unarmed security guards have increased from \$14 to \$19; for private detectives, registrations and renewals are now \$206, up from \$158 previously. These fee increases were published in the December 22, 2002, edition of the DC Register. The MPDC Records Division also announced that it will no longer accept cash for the transactions it handles, but will require a money order instead. For more information on how to obtain police reports, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/reports/reports.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV